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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1,2, 8, 14, and 17 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants right to pursue the cancelled claim in this or a subsequent application. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments to the claims.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 17 may be found throughout the specification.

More particularly, the language "to adjust a pH value thereto to a pH of less than 7" is fully supported by the specification and claim 1 as originally filed. For example, claim 1 provides that the alkaline waste solution be neutralized, which one skilled in the art recognizes as a reducing the original pH to a value of 7 or less. Additional support for the amendment to claims 1 and 17 may be found in the specification at page 6, line 16 to page 7, line 6 and at page 8, line 23 to page 9, line 5.

The language "valuable substances selected from adipic acid, 6-hydroxycaproic acid, saponified esters or ketones of cyclohexanol, and C₄-C₆-lactones," in claims 1 and 17 is fully supported by the specification. See, for example, page 9, lines 3-5.

Claims 1, 2, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for valuable substances, such as adipic acid, 6-hydroxycaproic acid saponified esters or ketones of cyclohexanol group and C₄-C₆ lactones, does not reasonably provide enablement for all valuable substances in the field of organic chemistry.

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Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 8, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as containing terms which were not proceeded by an article.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification is allegedly not enabling for all nitro compounds. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The specification clearly provides that complicated nitrocompounds can be formed by the reaction of nitric acid with organic substrates and that the nitrocompounds are frequently difficult to remove by distillation and may have a detrimental effect upon any subsequent esterification reactions. The instant specification provides a two step concentration process which incorporates a step for removal or decomposition of any nitro compounds remaining in the crude concentrates. See, for example page 10, lines 8 to 18.

Thus, Applicant clearly provides enablement for the removal of undesirable nitrocompounds from the product produced by the process of the invention. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the claims as amended are fully compliant with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, including of the requirements of §112 first and second paragraph.

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It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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